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SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, EMERGING THREATS,
AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Christopher Shays, Connecticut
Chairman

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September 20, 2004

The President
The White House
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

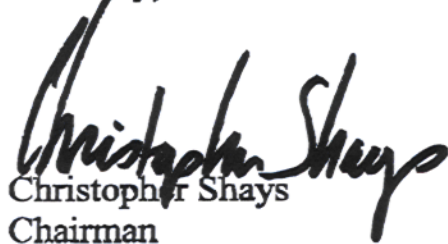
Please be advised, Department of Defense (DOD) regulations (DOD Instruction 5210.87, dated 30 Nov 1998) stipulate that all persons directly associated with Presidential Support Activities (PSAs) such as the manufacture, repair and maintenance of the presidential helicopter fleet must meet the highest Defense Department security clearance requirements. Among other things, this clearance requires "all relevant personnel to be citizens of the United States who are not married to non-citizens and who possess unquestionable loyalty to the United States."

Pursuant to the oversight jurisdiction of the House Government Reform Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations, we have asked DOD for certain information regarding Presidential Support Activities (PSAs).

Potential vulnerabilities to presidential support duties include the disruption of the supply chain, risk to critical parts manufactured and sealed

in a foreign country, and protection of intellectual property for sensitive procurements. Accordingly, the Subcommittee has asked the Department of Defense how the Department monitors compliance with DOD Instruction 5210.87.

Sincerely,


Christopher Shays
Chairman

ENCLOSURE

cc:

Hon. Tom Davis
Hon. Henry Waxman
Hon. Dennis J. Kucinich
Hon. Michael Turner



G A O

Accountability • Integrity • Reliability

United States Government Accountability Office
Washington, DC 20548

September 16, 2004

The Honorable Christopher Shays
Chairman, Subcommittee on National Security,
Emerging Threats and International Relations
Committee on Government Reform
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We received your letter dated September 2, 2004, requesting that the Government Accountability Office examine how the Department of Defense assesses compliance with DOD Instruction 5210-87, requiring that persons associated with Presidential Support Activities meet the highest Defense Department security clearance requirements.

GAO accepts your request as work that is within the scope of its authority. To fully respond to your request, GAO plans to initiate work on this project in January 2005 when it is expected that staff with the required skills will be available. Your request has been assigned to Mr. Henry L. Hinton, Jr., Managing Director, Defense Capabilities and Management. Mr. Hinton or a member of his team will contact Mr. Lawrence Halloran or Mr. Vincent Chase to discuss the request and options for helping you meet your needs.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Hinton at 202-512-6599 or Mr. Jerry Skelly, Assistant Director for Congressional Relations, on my staff at 202-512-9918.

Sincerely yours,

Gloria L. Jarmon
Managing Director for
Congressional Relations

cc: The Honorable Dennis J. Kucinich
Ranking Minority Member

Ref: CCAR 04-1312